

# Press Release



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

---

**L02:144**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**09/19/2002**

## **GOVERNOR DAVIS SIGNS LANDMARK LEGISLATION TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF HIGH SPEED RAIL 09/19/2002**

### **SACRAMENTO**

Governor Gray Davis has signed legislation that places a nearly \$10 billion general obligation bond on the November 2004 ballot to fund the planning and construction of a high-speed rail transportation system for California.

"During my four years in office, I've made a record commitment to California's future through new investments in transportation," Governor Davis said. "Today, we elevate this investment in our future by investing in High-Speed Rail, the train of the future."

SB 1856, by Senator Jim Costa (D-Fresno), places the \$9.95 billion general obligation bond, the Safe, Reliable High-Speed Train Bond Act of the 21st Century, on the November 2004 ballot. This measure is the first step in financing the planning and construction of a high-speed rail transportation system that will connect Southern California to the Central Valley, Sacramento and the Bay Area. Of this amount, about \$1 billion would be provided to inter-city rail, commuter rail, and urban rail passenger services throughout the state.

"The High-Speed Rail system will be built in California, by Californians, for all Californians," the Governor continued. "Every major population center in the state will benefit."

This bill will allow the High Speed Rail Authority to proceed in developing a viable alternative to air transportation and will relieve congestion on Route 99 and Route 5 and several other highways throughout the state.

The California High Speed Rail Authority is a nine-member agency established to plan, finance, construct and operate a statewide network of high-speed rail service. The Authority is charged with ensuring inter-city high speed rail is fully integrated with the state's existing inter-city rail and bus network. This bill is consistent with the draft business plan issued by the Authority which envisions a 700 mile, \$25 billion high-speed rail system moving passengers between Sacramento, Merced, Bakersfield, the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, and San Diego at speeds of more than 200 mph.

SB 796, by Senator Jim Costa (D-Fresno), repeals the termination date for the High Speed Authority (formerly December 31, 2003) and requires any legal or equitable action against the Authority to be filed in a court in Sacramento County rather than in any county in which the Attorney General has an office.

This bill will allow the Authority to continue to perform its work indefinitely and to expend state funds already authorized for the preliminary project planning for the state's prospective high-speed rail transportation system. Confining legal actions against the authority to the County of Sacramento will allow centralized costs of litigation and will accommodate the Authority whose only office is in Sacramento.

